

Margaret Kim
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Miller Arts Scholars Minigrant Application

Adding Bones to Sculptures of Biologically Possible Alien Organisms

Nature of Research:

Lately, I have been using sculpture supplies that are not readily available to students. For example, while there are plenty of plaster, wax, and clay available to use, I have been using mainly resin, glitter, and polymer clay to create my pieces. While these are not costly by itself, the scale and the number of artworks I have been creating has increased. I am applying for a Artists Minigrant to fund various materials and consumable supplies that I will be using throughout the semester in my sculpture journey.

This semester, I have been creating alien creatures that are very unlike us but very similar to us at the same time. By creating unrecognizable pink and grotesque creatures but allowing some semblance of familiarity, I hope to speak upon universal concepts that exist past our small world. I focused on recreating life, adding lively color and detailing to imitate textures and quality of a living organism. However, I decided to go a step further and incorporate life itself. I plan on creating my creatures with the incorporation of real bones, like a reverse taxidermy where the skin and flesh is fantastical while the insides are more grounded in reality.

I will be purchasing ethically sourced frozen feeder rabbit and guinea pig carcasses from suppliers that cater to various zoos and pet enthusiasts. The bones will be extracted, bleached, and incorporated into my sculptures, while the flesh will be fed back to animals/pets to fulfill their original purpose. Parts of the carcass that cannot be safely consumed by the animals will be composted.

Rest of the minigrant will go to funding consumable art supplies such as clay, pigments, biodegradable glitter, and resin, which is used to coat all my sculptures to imitate a slimy, mucus-saturated surface. I will also purchase various silicone molds that I can use with both polymer clay and resin. These molds will go to make basic structures that I will build upon to create various organs that will be present in crosssections of my organism. I have attached examples of my previous sculpture to better describe the presentation of alien organs. I will also purchase two bell-jar shape display cases to present some of the smaller creatures I will create. These will imitate taxidermy pieces or scientific displays present in natural history museums.

With the funding of this minigrant, I will be able to create larger sculptures with more detail and realism. With these sculpting supplies and accessories, I would continue to develop and explore new concepts, techniques, and approaches to sculpture.

Projected Schedule:

March: procure materials

April-May: create sculptures averaging 2-3 sculptures per month

End of May: document and compile list of sculptures to be included into portfolio

Beyond: I would be able to utilize this tool as long as I pursue art

Budget:

Total: \$503.75

Medium Rabbits (1 Per Bag)	\$13	https://www.rodentpro.com/products/medium-rabbits-1-per-bag
Quintuple Extra-Large Guinea Pigs (1 Per Bag)	\$7 x 2	https://www.rodentpro.com/products/quintuple-extra-large-guinea-pigs-1-per-bag
Triple Extra-Large Rabbits (1 Per Bag)	\$17	https://www.rodentpro.com/products/triple-extra-large-rabbits-1-per-bag
Premo Sculpey Accents -- Translucent, 1 lb.	\$19.97 x 3	https://polymerclaysuperstore.com/collections/all-premo/products/premo-sculpey-translucent-1-lb
Lumiere Lusters Dichroic Opal Flake Art Pigments	11.00 + \$5.60 shipping	https://www.amazon.com/Lumiere-Lusters-Dichroic-Flake-Pigments/dp/B07L2JH1FY?th=1
ArtResin - Epoxy Resin - Clear - 1 gal (3.78 L)	\$129.00	https://www.amazon.com/ArtResin-Epoxy-Resin-Clear-Non-Toxic/dp/B011T5V08K/ref=sr_1_29?keywords=resin&qid=1583507629&sr=8-29
Pinky set of biodegradable glitter	\$28 +\$5 shipping	https://www.ecoglitterfun.com/product-page/pinky-set-of-biodegradable-glitter
Rainbow set of biodegradable glitter	\$28 +\$5 shipping	https://www.ecoglitterfun.com/product-page/rainbow-set-of-biodegradable-glitter

